

TITLE: IMPROVED CHARGE/AUXILIARY CIRCUIT FOR REDUCING
POWER LOSSES IN HYDROSTATIC SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to hydrostatic charge pumps and, more specifically, to a charge pump with two independent outlets that can satisfy the pressure requirements of both a charge circuit and an auxiliary circuit.

10 Hydraulic systems often use a common flow source to satisfy the flow requirements of both the charge and implement or auxiliary circuits. Yet, meeting the flow requirements of both circuits often is difficult. In one conventional arrangement, the charge pump supplies pressure
15 first to the auxiliary circuit before sending pressure to the charge circuit. If the pump is unable to meet the requirements of both circuits, however, the low pressure levels of the charge circuit can cause the hydrostatic pump to fail. In other conventional arrangements, the charge
20 pump provides pressure to the charge circuit first, followed by the auxiliary circuit. This arrangement, however, often causes the charge circuit pressure to rise and fall in relation to the auxiliary circuit pressure requirement, causing heavier loading on the hydrostatic pump and
25 additional hydrostatic power losses.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,165,233 to Betz attempted to solve the problems in the prior art by the use of a charge pressure priority valve. Implementation of this valve, however, requires that the pressure at the charge pump outlet always
30 be set for the auxiliary circuit. Although use of a priority valve prevents failure or damage to the hydrostatic pump, it is not without its shortcomings. Because of the

pressure drop from the auxiliary circuit requirement to that of the charge circuit, there are considerable power losses associated with the use of a priority valve.

It is therefore a principal object of this invention to 5 provide a charge pump that can satisfy the pressure requirements of both a charge circuit and an auxiliary circuit with a minimal of power loss.

A further object of this invention is to provide a charge pump that can satisfy the pressure requirements of 10 both a charge circuit and an auxiliary circuit using two independent discharge outlets.

These and other objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

15 BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed toward a charge pump with two independent outlets that can satisfy the pressure requirements of both a charge circuit and an auxiliary circuit. Preferably, the charge pump is a multiple roller 20 vane pump that has at least one inlet and two outlets independent of each other. The first outlet is in fluid communication with a charge circuit, and the second outlet is in fluid communication with an auxiliary circuit.

Because the two outlets are independent of each other, the 25 roller vane pump is able to independently satisfy the pressure requirements of both the charge and auxiliary circuits. Preferably, the two outlets are diametrically opposed to each other, thereby reducing the load on the driveshaft. Additionally, the roller vane pump may include 30 a second inlet independent of the first.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a process and instrument diagram of a hydraulic system of the present invention; and

Fig. 2 is a cycle diagram of a roller vane charge pump 5 of the present invention;

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

With reference to Fig. 1, a hydraulic system 10 is shown that includes a hydrostatic pump 12 and a charge pump 10 14 both driven by a driveshaft 16. Charge pump 14 has a fluid inlet 18, a charge outlet 20 to supply a charge circuit 22, and an auxiliary outlet 24 to supply an implement or auxiliary circuit 26. Charge circuit 22 includes a pair of cross check valves 28. Auxiliary circuit 15 26 includes an implement relief valve 30 that returns the auxiliary flow to the pump case and an implement valve 32 that sends the auxiliary flow through a heat exchanger 34. Outlets 20 and 24 are independent of each other such that charge pump 14 can supply hydraulic fluid at one pressure to 20 charge circuit 22 and hydraulic fluid at a different pressure to auxiliary circuit 26. Charge outlet 20 and auxiliary outlet 24 may be arranged as shown in Fig. 1 such that they are offset by approximately 90°. Alternatively, the outlets 20 and 24 may be diametrically opposed, or 25 offset by approximately 180°. The load placed on the hydrostatic pump shaft 16 is minimized when the outlets 20 and 24 are diametrically opposed. Additionally, pump 14 may include a second inlet (not shown) that is independent from inlet 18.

As shown in Fig. 2, charge pump 14 preferably is a multiple roller vane pump with vanes 36. Pump 14 includes a suction region 38, a first dwelling region 40, a first

pressure region 42, a second dwelling region 44, a second pressure region 46, and a third dwelling region 48. Pump inlet 18 is in fluid communication with suction region 38, while charge outlet 20 is in fluid communication with first 5 pressure region 42 and auxiliary outlet 24 is in fluid communication with second pressure region 46. In the arrangement shown in Fig. 2, outlets 20 and 24 are offset by approximately 90°. The suction region 38 may be reduced in size and the second dwelling region 44 may be increased such 10 that outlets 20 and 24 are diametrically opposed, or offset by approximately 180°.

In operation, pump 14 rotates in a clockwise direction, as indicated in Fig. 2. As the vanes 36 of pump 14 sweep through suction region 38, hydraulic fluid is taken in from 15 inlet 18. As the vanes 36 pass through first dwelling region 48, the fluid volume is transitioned from inlet pressure to the pressure in region 42. In region 42, the rollers are displaced to provide the flow requirements of the charge circuit 22. As the vanes 36 sweep through second 20 dwelling region 44, the hydraulic fluid will be transitioned to the pressure of region 46. In region 46, the rollers are displaced to provide the flow requirements of the auxiliary circuit 26. Vanes 36 further sweep through third dwelling region 48 to prepare the pump 14 for another complete cycle. 25 The arrangement of the various regions within pump 14 may be altered to achieve the specific displacement requirements of both the charge circuit 22 and the auxiliary circuit 26. As such, no excess power is lost due to combining the pressure and flow needs of the charge and auxiliary circuits as the 30 pump 14 passes through each cycle.

It is therefore seen that by the use of a charge pump with two independent outlets, this invention satisfies the

pressure requirements of both the charge and auxiliary circuits with a minimal of power loss.